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For more information, please contact:
Helen Channon on 01524 526511
or email h.channon@ucsm.ac.uk.

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Kathy Flann on 01524 384418
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Please call 01228 616360 or email RBalogh@ucsm.ac.uk

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Aluminate

St Martin's Alumni Magazine

Summer 2005



Ambleside, Carlisle, Lancaster



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Welcome

Welcome to the first copy of Aluminate, your new Alumni Magazine. In this edition we celebrate the life of Dr Hugh Pollard; founding Principal of St Martin's, and look back on his extraordinary career. On page 2 we feature a moving story from Matthew Marshall, an Alumnus living and working in Thailand in the aftermath of the Boxing Day Tsunami.

Following on from last year's 40th Anniversary Celebrations, there is a feature on the Alumni Reunion and news of this year's reunion – a Summer Party at the Lancaster Campus on 30 July. On page 12, we have an article on Tower Hamlets, our teacher training centre site in East London and on the back cover there are details of further courses that might be of interest to you here at St Martin's.

Your Alumni Association relies on your input to make it work. This year we have received many updates from you on your careers and families. Please continue to send them in to us so that we can make Aluminate an interesting and enjoyable read.

As ever, if you have any questions regarding your Alumni Association, please get in touch with us.

Happy reading

David Hudson and Jo Gregory



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Remembering 'A Place in Provence'



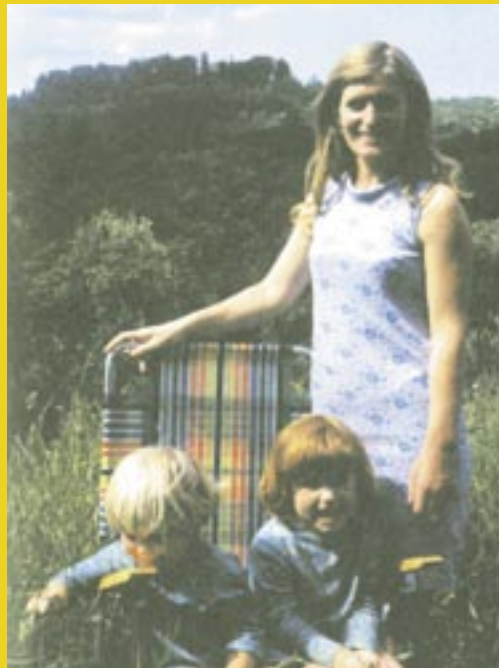
“ We were hard up, living on a student grant, so we drove to Aix with a caravan, in which we hoped to live throughout our time in France. ”

Living in the South of France for a year would be a distant pipe dream for most people. For Jane French (PGCE English 1979), it was a reality and now she has written about her experiences in a book called 'A Place in Provence'. It wasn't the life of luxury you might assume, but Jane's book is filled with warm memories of a special time for her family.

It tells the story of Jane, her husband Richard and their two children Katharine, four, and Alison, two, and their year in Aix-en-Provence at the start of the seventies. It's her personal account of the remarkable time they spent together living on a French campsite and house-sitting a splendid 18th century house.

In 1970, Richard was studying Linguistics at the University of York when he got the chance to study at the University of Aix-en-Provence for a year. He was determined to take his family with him but money was an issue.

Jane explains: "We were hard up, living on a student grant, so we drove to Aix with a caravan, in which we hoped to live throughout our time in France." They found a place for the caravan near Mont St Victoire, a mountain immortalised by the artist Cezanne.



Jane with Alison & Katharine in 1971

By winter, caravan life became too cold but fortune was smiling on them. They were chosen to house-sit an 18th century villa by its owner, who was travelling abroad for a few months.

Their time there was full of drama, one of the girls fell ill and friends suffered accidents but they saw their way through it all. When the house's owner returned, they happily went back to the campsite. "We heard many fantastic stories, while we ourselves had numerous adventures and misadventures that have remained vividly in my mind over the intervening years."

Jane was inspired to write the book for Alison and Katharine, who are now grown up and remembered little of that time. "Writing the book was a great adventure in itself. It brought back all the excitement and fun of that brilliant year and I am delighted at all the positive feedback I am getting from readers. For instance,

I've just heard from a reader who is following our example and setting out this summer with his wife and two little girls for a year, possibly a lifetime, in Southern France. Maybe one day they'll write about their experiences." ■

If you can't find a copy of 'A Place in Provence' contact this office or Jane at: wilkinstile@hotmail.com

Witnessing The Tsunami

Matthew Marshall was caught up in the disaster and its aftermath in Thailand and tells us his experiences.

Most people will no doubt be familiar with the recent tsunami in Asia, having watched the terrible scenes of destruction played out on the news over Christmas and New Year. For one St Martin's graduate however, it was all too real as he was caught up in the disaster in Thailand and worked on the relief effort in its aftermath.

Matthew Marshall (BSc Maths with QTS Upper Primary 1996) teaches Maths at Dulwich International College (associated with Dulwich College in London) on the island of Phuket, Thailand. Matthew says "I love Phuket, it's a wonderful place. We have many students of various nationalities at our school and their attitude towards learning is fantastic."

For the Christmas holidays, his parents had come to visit him and his girlfriend Nui. They spent Christmas day itself in an English theme pub in traditional style. The plan was to then head for Khao Lak in the morning to spend the next few days scuba diving. Matthew recalls: "It was a perfect Christmas. Because of our revelries we woke up late on Boxing Day and delayed setting off until around 11am."

Ominously, Nui and Matthew's mother both thought they had felt an earthquake earlier that morning. A quick internet search revealed that there had been one in Indonesia but there seemed to be no immediate cause for concern so they set off. There were few other cars on the road but it wasn't until they were stopped by a road

block near Khao Lak that it started to become apparent that something was seriously wrong.

"The road ahead was completely covered in sand, mud and trees. We stopped further down the road where a man who spoke good English told us of a big wave which had injured many tourists. We turned the radio station on to the Thai news. As Nui translated, the story began to get clearer. Khao Lak was badly damaged, as were many villages around the beaches of Phuket. They said that hundreds of people had died."



Patong Beach

Nui's sister worked in a hotel in Patong, a beach resort near Phuket, but they were unable to contact her. Matthew and Nui dropped his parents off at the English bar and went to find her. The tsunami's devastating impact now became clear.

The aid effort in Khao Lak



Khao Lak - the day after



Dulwich International College



Tsunami Survivors



The school's memorial service



Devastation on Patong Beach





Matthew and Nui at the Bridge on the River Kwai

“As we neared the beach, the traffic died down and the horror opened up before us. People were gathered outside hotels, fishing boats were smashed up and there was sand and rubbish everywhere. The road was just a mass of jumble - cars upside down and piled into each other, shop windows shattered and tailors’ dummies looking like casualties amongst the wreckage. People were walking around in silence and in awe. The silence was only broken by the sound of police sirens.”

After many failed attempts, Nui was finally able to get her sister on the phone, who was thankfully OK. Arriving back at the bar, they met more victims of the disaster. “People were sat outside, battered and bruised, many having lost everything and having nowhere else to go.”

Matthew’s school was to be used as an evacuation centre so he went back to help as soon as he could. “People arrived in their dozens, some with belongings and some without. Some people were well, some injured. Some people had their families, others had lost all their relatives, or had no idea what had happened to them. We were overflowing with inconsolable people”

The next few days were a blur. Matthew witnessed many traumatic scenes but also some emotional reunions. “We managed to reunite a young boy with his uncle and another with his injured mother. There were also many less happy endings. A total of over 500 survivors passed through the school in five days. Most people stayed two days, some stayed all five. Many still do not know the fate of their sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, mothers or fathers.”

New Year was marked in subdued fashion with no one in any mood to celebrate. “The evening climaxed with a candlelit vigil, a moments silence and the song ‘Lean on Me’ at midnight. This song will haunt me forever.”

When the students came back, they were full of questions. It meant reliving some difficult memories for the staff, but it did prove inspiring. “The students were fantastic, and many wanted to do as much as possible to help.” A fund was set up to help local projects, sixth formers helped with the clean up operation and students collected toys and clothes for children in the devastated areas.

It was a difficult time but Matthew is grateful to Nui, his family and friends for the help they gave him. “I know that the support I had from my parents and girlfriend was enormous. The support I had from other staff and from local friends was also much needed.” ■

Dulwich International College and Dulwich College in London have established their own fund to help stricken people in Southern Thailand. For more information or to donate, see their website at: www.dulwich.org.uk/news/disasterappeal.htm.



Dulwich International College became a Help Centre for Tsunami victims

St Martin's

Alumni Reunions

We review the November Reunion and look forward to a Summer Party for 2005

The 2004 Alumni Reunion was held, unusually, on 13 November to coincide with the College's 40th Anniversary Celebrations. The weather was rather typical for a November day in Lancaster – cold, but (not so typically) dry. The afternoon started with a tour of the campus by Jeff Tweddle, student representative to the governing body, and included the Alexandra Building that had been opened the previous week by HRH Princess Alexandra. As the darkness began to descend on campus, everyone retired to the Lancaster Room where scones and a welcome cup of tea were waiting.

The evening began with a champagne reception hosted by current Principal Chris Carr. As ever, Chris was keen to speak to all the Alumni to find out how times have changed over the years. As everyone sat down for dinner, Phillipa Fraser and Brenda Mitchell of the St Martin's Association unveiled a picture by Ben Holgate, commissioned by the SMA, in memory of the late Miss Margaret Wallace, second Vice-Principal of the College and Chair of the St Martin's Association.

Following the formalities, a hot buffet, expertly prepared by the College catering staff was served. Everyone was soon happily reminiscing about their time at St Martin's and the many changes that have taken place over the last four decades. With the meal finished, some chose to stay behind and chat whilst others preferred the lively atmosphere of the JCR where the 'Wear it Pink' Breast Cancer Awareness evening was in full swing.

David Hudson said, "It was a great day and I particularly enjoyed it, as it was my first reunion as Alumni Manager. We received a lot of feedback which will help us make future reunions bigger and better for you all. I look forward to meeting more of you at the next reunion this July."

Alumni Reunion 2005

Following on from the success of last year's 40th Anniversary event, this year's Alumni Reunion will be held at the Lancaster Campus on 30 July. As ever, all previous students and staff of the College are invited to attend. For this event, we are returning the reunion to its usual summer slot and will be throwing a summer party, including Bar and Bar-B-Que.

Please see the insert with this magazine for more information, contact details and a booking form. ■



Prof Chris Carr(left) chats with former students



Alumni on a Campus tour

Obituaries

Dr Hugh Pollard OBE

“ The person who laid down the foundations of the thriving institution St Martin’s is today. ”



Dr Hugh Pollard OBE, founding Principal of St Martin’s College, has passed away at the age of 89.

He was Principal from 1963 until his retirement in 1976. A testament to his dedication is that the St Martin’s he opened with just 89 students in 1964 was a thriving campus of over 700 students when he retired thirteen years later.

Dr Pollard was a native of East Lancashire and studied English at Oxford in the 1930s, after which he taught at Newton Abbot Grammar School. During the war he served in military intelligence. Following the war, he taught in Germany and the US, before returning to the UK to teach at Chester College and Sheffield University. Before joining St Martin’s, Dr Pollard had been Vice Principal of the College of St Mark and St John in Chelsea for three years.

On his retirement, Dr Pollard was recognised for his services to education with an OBE and received the Order of Vasa from the King of Sweden.

In 1993, the Hugh Pollard Lecture Theatre was officially opened and named in his honour. He kept close links with the College after he left and returned many times over the years, most recently for the Alexandra Building opening in November 2004.

Prof Chris Carr said: “Dr Pollard was a man of energy, wisdom and foresight and the person who laid down the foundations of the thriving institution St Martin’s is today. He maintained a continuing and lively interest in everything that happened at the College right up to his death and, in mourning his passing, we give thanks for the powerful and far-sighted way in which he established St Martin’s.” ■



The Queen Mother and Dr Pollard at the College’s official opening in 1967

Christine Ditchfield



Christine at the Carlisle graduation ceremony

Christine joined St Martin's College in 1998 and made a unique and exceptional contribution to the life of the College. It was with great sadness that colleagues and students received the news of Christine's death.

Students will remember Christine as a tutor who affected their lives. Her interactions with students were typically honest, enthusiastic and

passionate. She had a love of learning and an absolute respect for the teaching profession.

Students, past and present, talk of her teaching being 'inspirational and enjoyable' and many consider her an irreplaceable tutor and friend.

Christine was a friend and mentor to many staff and helped develop and nurture the culture and values of a new campus. She saw the potential in everybody and made time to listen sympathetically, however busy she was!

At college social functions; she was ever-present, glass of white wine in hand, dancing in her own unique style. Her contributions to karaoke in the Calva Bar are unforgettable! Life, for Christine, was lived at 120%, she could 'out-party' even the most enthusiastic 18 year old!

Colleagues have chosen to use this

opportunity to celebrate a friend who lived life to the full and 'made a difference'. She was a light that shone brightly, it is this light that we will remember. ■

The Ditchfield and Nellist families would like to thank the many staff and students from St Martin's who have offered us their generous sympathy and support. We particularly appreciated the powerful endorsements of Christine as teacher, counsellor, confidante and friend. There were many touching tributes. Thank you for all of those. My personal favourite, from a student, simply ended 'She is the reason I am still on my teaching course. The shiniest star amongst a million stars.' I think I can settle for that.

John Nellist, Christine's husband

Archie Beattie

Archie Beattie (PGCE 1990) passed away on 28 April 2005. He studied at Edinburgh University, gaining a degree in English Literature and Latin as well as a PhD. Following that he joined the Cumbria Police as only their second graduate, rising to the rank of Inspector. Following his retirement, he studied at St Martin's and subsequently became a dedicated and popular teacher at Cartmel Priory. He was a well-loved and respected resident of Natland, near Kendal, enjoying gardening, golf and rugby in particular. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.



Brian Bamber

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Brian Bamber. Prior to returning to live in the UK, Brian had an illustrious career abroad, including a long association with the British Council, holding many senior positions in English language teaching in countries such as Egypt, Turkey, Brazil & Pakistan. At St Martin's, he taught on many of our courses for international students and teachers and was loved and respected by all, both for his serious professionalism and for his wonderful sense of humour. We will miss him greatly as a colleague, mentor and friend and extend our deepest sympathy to Brian's wife, Lindsey, and his family.



Helen Johnson - Modern Foreign Languages

Alumni Student News

London Exhibition for St Martin's artists

Three St Martin's Art graduates had their own exhibition in London last October, showcasing work from their student days in addition to more recent pieces. 21 year olds Sian Schofield and Kimberley Block along with Nadine Montaghmi (31) put on the show, called 'Ignite', at the Nancy Victor Gallery in central London.

It's the first exhibition they have had together since leaving the College, although Sian and Nadine exhibited work earlier in 2004 at the Dock Museum in Barrow-in-Furness as part of the art group Chromazone.

Sian said: "The Nancy Victor Gallery exhibition consisted of only our work; therefore it was not only our first show since graduating but also our first independent show, which was really special for us and nice that we could share this experience together."



Sian, Kimberley and Nadine outside the Gallery

Swedish trip for early years students

Seven teaching students spent three weeks in Sweden on placement last September, working in day-care centres and primary schools. The students were based in Borlange, 150 miles northwest of Stockholm.

The idea for a placement came from St Martin's graduate Zoe Windle, who had worked in Borlange for three years teaching English to 3-7 year olds. This was the first time students from St Martin's have taken part in a placement in Sweden.

Early Years Lecturer Joyce Mather said: "Now that the link has been established, we hope that many more of our students will benefit from visiting Sweden, experiencing first hand another system of education and most important of all developing long lasting friendships."



On teaching placement in Sweden

Prioritising the Student Experience

The College continues to develop its portfolio, increase its student base and improve facilities.

St Martin's College as you know it, is growing and changing; developing initiatives to increase participation in higher education and ensure quality teaching and learning. The College's Corporate Plan 2004 – 09 puts the student experience at the centre of everything we do.

We aim to ensure that more people than ever before have access to good quality higher education, especially those in unrepresented groups and people from backgrounds where higher education participation is low. We are working to increase awareness and aspirations for all.

St Martin's degrees are awarded by Lancaster University but the College has recently applied to award its own degrees. The application was submitted on 11 March 2005 and assessors started work in College on 23 May 2005. They will scrutinise the College for at least a year. St Martin's is a business aiming to grow and develop a strong presence in an increasingly competitive higher education sector. Awarding its own degrees will provide it with the flexibility to respond quickly to local, regional and national needs.

As you know, St Martin's is based over three main campuses in Lancaster, Carlisle and Ambleside with other sites in Whitehaven, Barrow and London. It now has more than 11,500 students and has recently completed a number of capital building projects which have increased recreational as well as teaching and learning facilities. These include library and sports facility improvements, the opening of a new teaching and learning block at Lancaster in 2004 and a new teaching and learning block at Carlisle, currently under construction.

The College continues to develop its portfolio of courses to attract a diverse range of students whilst continuing to reflect the needs of local employers and economic trends. The College is famous as the top producer of teachers in the country and the number one producer of health care professionals in the North West, but now offer numerous other courses including Sustainability and Culture, New Media Arts, Dance, Drama, Sports Studies and a number of Business courses. If you're interested in further study with St Martin's, check out our Graduate Prospectus or Lifelong Learning Directory, detailing post graduate and research opportunities.

To obtain a copy please call: **0 80 80 024 024** ■



Neil Simco - Graduate Profile

From Charlotte Mason to St Martin's, from student to Dean of Faculty.

St Martin's College and Charlotte Mason College are inextricably linked, not least by their merger in 1996, but also by the many people who were part of both institutions. Dr Neil Simco is in a unique position as he both studied and worked at Charlotte Mason, was with them when they merged with St Martin's College and is now Dean of the Faculty of Education, continuing a remarkable progression.

Neil first arrived at Charlotte Mason College in 1982, to study a BEd (Hons) in Primary Education degree. Originally from Orpington in Kent, he came to Ambleside with a clear vision of wanting teaching to be his vocation.

Neil turned down the opportunity to study at more traditional universities in order to study at Charlotte Mason. He credits the staff there for helping him develop the values about education he holds today. "I am immensely grateful for that and it was very much a nurturing experience."

Life as a student in Ambleside made a strong impression. "I absolutely loved it. The passion that I have for being involved in education is still there and the roots of that were what I experienced at Charlotte Mason." Its location in the Lake District also had its appeal. "That was something that I did enjoy. I still live in Ambleside now so there must have been something about it!"

After four years, Neil graduated and started his teaching career at a church school in Somerset, keen to experience a new environment and face new challenges. Over the next six years, he taught in various other



Neil outside The Keep at the Lancaster Campus



Scale How - the registry building at the Ambleside Campus

schools in Lancashire and Cumbria, building up his teaching experience.

By the early 90s, Neil felt it was time for a career change. "I decided that, after being in the classroom for a period of time, what I really wanted to do was a PhD. I actually took a big jump and gave up a full time job to do it." Neil studied his PhD with Lancaster University, working as a part time teacher at the same time.

"As time went on I really became convinced that I wanted to pursue a career within Higher Education and specifically within teacher education." He'd already been doing some casual work at Charlotte Mason so when a full time job came up, he applied and was appointed as Lecturer in Professional Studies.

Charlotte Mason had become a different place in his absence and was now a college of Lancaster University, a relationship that started in 1992. By 1996, this had come to an end as Charlotte Mason merged with St Martin's College. "I think that was a very exciting time in many ways because there were some extremely able colleagues at Ambleside who brought a great deal to St Martin's"

Neil was appointed as Dean of Faculty in 2002, a swift rise to a senior management position. He's quick to point out it was his colleagues' encouragement that led him to apply in the first place. "It's a tremendous privilege to lead the Faculty of Education, the largest teacher education provider in the country, and it's a very challenging position. I am always of the view that I want to do the best job that I can and I do feel a strong sense of vocation."

Away from work, spending time with his family is a priority for Neil. "I have two young children that keep me busy. I have a five year old daughter and I enjoy doing lots of things with her. We also have a five month old baby, a little boy, so family life is very important to me." He is also very involved in the Methodist Church in Ambleside and Windermere, and enjoys walking in the Cumbrian countryside.

Neil is keen to continue developing the Faculty, building on past successes and increasing their reputation for high quality education. "We see ourselves as a national provider with a regional emphasis. I hope that ex-students will spread the word that this is an exciting and dynamic place to be because I believe it is." ■

Focus

on Tower Hamlets

An update from Tower Hamlets Professional Development Centre - St Martin's site in East London.

There's more to St Martin's College than just its campuses in Cumbria and North Lancashire, it has also put down roots in London. For 10 years now, St Martin's has had a link with East London and has had a base in Tower Hamlets for the last 5 years. Located in a culturally diverse area, the Tower Hamlets Professional Development Centre in Mile End is a large Victorian school that now

houses the education training facilities of the Borough. Around 230 students study at the site on a range of Teacher Training courses which include Foundation, Undergraduate and Postgraduate degrees in Primary teaching. It also runs short courses for qualified teachers looking to return to teaching after a career break, as well as an MA in Education.

The building itself has been re-furbished to a high standard and has excellent teaching facilities, including good quality video and networked ICT facilities in all lecture rooms. The College has two dedicated rooms

and the facility to book others if and when required. It also houses an excellent professional library of a very high standard which is used by primary teachers in the Borough for borrowing books and resources for their classes. As well as borrowing academic books, St Martin's students are afforded the right to borrow the same resources as teachers whilst they are on school placements.



Tower Hamlets Professional Development Centre

Demographically, the student population at Tower Hamlets is very different to that found at the three main campuses. For example, Year 1 of the 2004/5 BA QTS 3 year programme is attended by 27 females and one male, with over 50% being of Bangladeshi origin. Many of the female students would not be able to attend at all if they were unable to study locally. They will often

have very heavy family commitments and are either looking after their own children or caring for their extended families. For the majority of the students, their family home is within three miles of the College.



Because of the small site at Tower Hamlets, it was a concern that students could miss out on the “student experience” that is available at the larger campuses. Provision was made by setting up a link with Queen Mary College, which is part of the University of London and is based about half a mile away. St Martin’s students can obtain membership of their Students’ Union and have full use of their social facilities, reference library, study spaces, chaplaincy and health centre.

Employment opportunities for Newly Qualified Teachers (NQT) in London have in the past been very positive. Virtually all graduates in 2004 who wanted to remain in London did so and found employment, which spreads the word about St Martin’s very effectively. The hope is these former students will take current students on placements once they complete their NQT year.

Thanks to the efforts of all concerned, the future of the College in East London is looking very promising and is helping to promote the name of St Martin’s to a national level. ■



College News



Royal Visit to Lancaster Campus

HRH Princess Alexandra visited the Lancaster Campus of St Martin's College in November 2004 to officially open a new £2 million teaching and learning block named in her honour. Local schoolchildren from Moorside Primary School were there to greet the Princess and take part in a musical teaching demonstration with their teachers and St Martin's lecturers. The new building, part funded by the European Regional Development Fund, includes designated areas for the Business and Community Enterprise Unit and two ground floor Clinical Skills Laboratories.



Bishkek, Capital of Kyrgyzstan

College builds links with Kyrgyzstan

Lecturers from St Martin's College have been involved in two projects to help rebuild former Soviet Union country Kyrgyzstan, located in Central Asia. In collaboration with Pirkanmaa Polytechnic Business School in Finland, the College is producing a guidebook for degree courses to be used across Kyrgyz higher education.

The second project involved health lecturers developing a Public Health curriculum to help empower the Kyrgyz people with the skills to redevelop their health services.



World renowned artists visit Lancaster Campus

Critically acclaimed artists the Singh Twins came to the Lancaster Campus in February to give an illustrated talk to St Martin's students. They discussed their work and held workshops with Art and Religious Studies Education students, sharing their insights on their Sikh religion to help inform the students' future teaching practice.

London born Amrit and Rabindra Singh are contemporary British artists of international standing whose award winning paintings have been acknowledged as constituting a unique genre in British Art and for initiating a new movement in the revival of the Indian miniature tradition within modern art practice.

SMART Grants launched for 2006-07

St Martin's College will be reinvesting 100% of additional income from 2006/7 fees into directly supporting students with cash SMART grants and SMART Scholarships alongside improvements to student services,

learning resources and funding for outreach activity with schools, colleges and communities. The Office for Fair Access approved the College's plans to enhance access, which aim to break down barriers to entry and get more people into Higher Education.

Annual SMART Grants of up to £1,200 and SMART scholarships of £1,000 will be available. Resources will be targeted to support eligible students most in need, widening participation and increasing Higher Education opportunities in lower income families and those from communities with traditionally low participation rates for higher education.



Student Volunteers clean Morecambe Bay beach

Over a hundred student volunteers from fourteen North West universities and higher education colleges came together to clean a stretch of beach along the Morecambe Bay coastline in February, to promote Student Volunteering Week.

St Martin's College, Liverpool University, University of Central Lancashire and University of Manchester were just some of those involved. The event was organised by the institutions in collaboration with Morecambe Bay Partnership and received coverage from BBC TV News North West Tonight and Radio Lancashire.



Science Learning Centre North-West launched

St Martin's officially launched the Science Learning Centre North West at the Ambleside Campus this March. The centre is based at the Kelsick site at Ambleside and will be a lead venue for the Science Learning Centre North West. This new initiative will offer practical and innovative professional development in science education to teachers in all schools and colleges in the North West. The project is run by a Manchester Metropolitan University-led consortium supported by St Martin's College and SETPOINT Greater Manchester. The Science Learning Centre North West will ensure young people in the region receive a world class science education.



Lib Dem Deputy Leader visits Ambleside

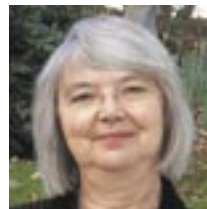
Election fever came to Ambleside this April, when Liberal Democrats Deputy Leader Sir Menzies

Campbell visited the campus as part of his party's General Election campaigning. He was there to support Tim Farron, who ran as the Liberal Democrat candidate for Westmorland and Lonsdale, a seat he eventually won. At the time Tim was also Head of Faculty Administration for the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at the College.

Ambleside Campus Principal Ruth Jenkinson welcomed them to the campus, where they took part in a question and answer session with St Martin's students, of whom many would be first-time voters. Topics such as education, health and welfare were top of the agenda.



Dr David Manning



Dr Hilary Cooper



Dr Ian Harris



Dr Diane Cox

New Professorships and Readership awarded

St Martin's College has recognised the outstanding academic achievements of four members of staff, awarding the title of Professor to three of its academic staff and awarding one with the title of Reader. The four are Dr David Manning (Professor of Medical Imaging), Dr Hilary Cooper (Professor of History and Pedagogy), Dr Ian Harris (Professor of Buddhist Studies) and Dr Diane Cox (Reader in Occupational Therapy).

The title of Professor is awarded to academic staff who have achieved an outstanding academic record and reputation at a national and international level. The title of Reader is awarded to those who have a proven and documented record of research and publication in academic journals.

Retirements



John Bradshaw retired in January 2005 after 12 years at the College. During that time he had worked as a Senior Maths Lecturer, Senior Education Lecturer and Senior Warden for the Lancaster Campus. John is one of the key organisers of CycleFest, the annual Lancaster Festival which attracts cycle enthusiasts from across the globe.



Anne Riggs retired in December 2004. She had been Head of the Division of Science and Technology.

Your News

Thank you for all of your updates over the last few months. We rely on your input to make the magazine a success so please continue sending them in.

If you would like to be included in "Your News" next time, please email your comments to j.gregory@ucsm.ac.uk. Please include; your name, degree, year of graduation, what you have been doing since you left St Martin's, your fondest memories of St Martin's, and 'what St Martin's means to you'. If you know of any "lost Alumni" please encourage them to contact the Alumni Office.

David Starkey **B.Ed Cert (1971)**

I loved the time spent at St Martin's at the end of the Swinging Sixties. A brave new world full of optimism, St Martin's exemplified that spirit with the leadership of Hugh Pollard and his dedicated young staff. I remember being fascinated by his 'upside-down' Swedish style house. The links with Sweden and the then ultra-modern chapel, we even had a visit from Royalty in the very attractive Princess Margaretha of Sweden, every inch a true lady.

I came to St Martin's after completing a HNC in electronics at AEI/GEC Manchester, so I

was fortunate to be a financially independent student. Those of us with our own transport were encouraged to forsake living in the halls of residence and were accommodated by a group of wonderful landladies. I stayed at 101, Westminster Road, Morecambe where Mrs Boucher (known affectionately as Mrs. B. by 'her Boys') looked after four of us like the best mother in the world.

Having a car I was lucky enough to do my first teaching practice at Abbeystead infant/junior school out in the beautiful countryside. The children were all marvellous, polite, well behaved and interested in learning. What a wonderful introduction to teaching.

After leaving I had to spend two years in the family newsagents to cover for illness, before being persuaded to join ITT to train people in the manufacture and testing of the new and exciting colour televisions. At the same time I joined BBC Manchester as a freelance sound editor working early in the morning on radio news items. In 1980 when ITT relocated from Bolton down

to Hastings, I joined Manchester University in the Department with the longest name; 'The Department of Audiology, Education of the Deaf and Speech Pathology', where as well the work with students we do research on digital hearing aids, cochlear implants and techniques of testing hearing in newborn children.

My intention whilst at St Martin's was to teach in a secondary school, yet I ended up at a university! So you see, 'teacher training' may not always take you in the direction you think. Education opens a whole world of possibilities to you.





Margaret in 1967 and today



**Margaret Hartzig (nee Lynn)
Teaching Certificate (1967)**

When I left St Martin's I began a career in teaching – starting in a village school near Carnforth, then I worked in a school in a very socially deprived area in a city. After marrying and having a daughter I returned to teaching via supply work in various establishments finally ending up in another village school in Cumbria where I stayed until I retired. I am now enjoying the freedom of riding my horse any day of the week!

My fondest memories of St Martin's are standing on top of the Keep just before Christmas singing carols in the snow, going up the "Old Man of Coniston" on St Martin's Day and joining in a service in Cartmel Priory. I also remember flogging up that hill from town – should have made me fit for life! St Martin's made me grow up and take responsibility for myself,

it gave me a good grounding for a profession which I enjoyed. It was a place where I was able to mix with a diverse group of people.

**Lois Skilleter (nee Bamford)
B.Ed English & Education
(Middle Years) (1987)**

Immediately after leaving St Martin's I moved down to London for my probationary year but I missed Yorkshire and so came back to teach in Bradford until I married John in 1991 and had our boys, Robert in 1993 and Patrick in 1996. I did some playgroup work while they were little and went into early years teaching. I currently do a little supply work but I am now looking for a change and am hoping to set up a small B&B on the edge of the Dales.

St Martin's was my salvation as I had an unhappy first year doing a B.Ed elsewhere and St Martin's allowed me to transfer into the second year and continue from there. It felt like home from home almost immediately and I enjoyed the course and made good friends there. I remember living in Oswald Street and climbing through the hole in the fence to get up to College. Five of us shared the house and we had some really great times. I'm still in touch with two of my ex-housemates. "Realism and Modernism" seminars with five of us and Bill Greenslade were always entertaining, even if I did feel like the thickest person in the group. I also remember reading aloud from "Stig of the Dump" with dramatic voices – was that David Aitken's session? It's just scary to think how long ago it all was, it really doesn't seem like nearly 18 years ago that we left!

Best wishes to everyone, it'll be interesting to hear what people are doing these days!

**Caroline Turner (nee Wright)
BA (Hons) History (1996)**

When I think of St Martin's I remember great people, making life long friends and my fondest memory is the Irish History field trip to Dublin in 1995! I wish I could come back and do it all again but with the benefit of age and experience behind me so I would work harder. Since leaving St Martin's I haven't used my degree or paid back my student loans! I have been working for the Royal Bank of Scotland and have reached the dizzy heights of Chief Cashier and Service Advisor. I got married in 2003 with our first baby on the way!

**William Baker
BA (Hons) Religious Studies
& Social Ethics, (1998) PGCE
Religious Studies & PHSE (1999)**

After finishing my courses at St Martin's I worked for three years teaching Religious Studies at the Stamford Endowed Schools in Lincolnshire. I then spent two years in Japan teaching English. When I returned to the UK I spent one term teaching English in Arnewood School in Hampshire and am now teaching Religious Studies at Leicester Grammar School. My fondest memories of St Martin's are The Rugby Club, the friends I made, an interesting course, getting a good degree and meeting Northerners! St Martin's means to me: Good Fun, Good Memories, and a Good Degree.